

From: Ken Trott [ktrott@cdfa.ca.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 12:30 PM  
To: Svetich, Ralph  
Cc: Casey Walsh Cady; sshaffer@cdfa.ca.gov  
Subject: RE: DRMS Draft White Paper for Economic Consequences.

Attachments: Ken Trott.vcf

Ralph:

I mentioned on Monday that I might have an additional comment or three on this paper that may be useful to the URS folks in their work. I agree with Casey that they have done an excellent job in capturing the kinds of impacts that are likely to occur on agriculture in the event of a levee failure. Three additional thoughts:

1. For Delta agriculture that is not inundated the paper discusses assessing the cost impacts of increasingly saline irrigation water, and the need for leaching. Another cost that could occur to these lands is the loss of agricultural infrastructure that the lands would need to continue farming. I'm thinking of roads for shipping, and processing facilities. If key roads are lost, would the dry aglands be able to get supplies and equipment to them? Similarly, would they have a way to get crops to processors and the market if roads are damaged? Another example would be the loss of processing facilities due to flooding. If in-Delta processors/shippers were lost and the next closest processor was too far away to be economic, then crops could be lost. These issues are similar to the farm labor issue that Casey raised.
2. There is discussion of the reservoir management impacts on San Joaquin agricultural lands, but not of impacts of alternated reservoir management on Sacramento Valley agricultural lands. I may be wrong, but it seems that if Oroville and Shasta had to release flushing flows in the spring for a levee failure incident, there could be less water available in the reservoirs during the growing season, affecting lower priority water users of Sacramento River water. It may be that alternative water sources are more plentiful in the Sacramento Valley than in the San Joaquin.
3. It looks like this issue will be covered, but just to make sure...Will the economic impact analysis take into account the hardening of ag demand south of the Delta; i.e., will the full cost of lost long-term investment, and lost production and jobs, when tree and vine crops go without water for an extended period be taken into account?

Thanks, Ralph. I understand these comments are coming to you late, but I hope that either they have already been accounted for (which wouldn't surprise me) or there is still time to factor them into the analysis.

Ken

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